



RANGER MINUTE: BARTLETT COVE ORIENTATION

Hi! I'm Ranger Tim Rains and welcome to another edition of Glacier Bay's Ranger Minutes. Glacier Bay National Park affords many opportunities for you to explore this once glaciated landscape. Here at Bartlett Cove you can prepare yourself for the wilderness trek up bay, or take advantage of the wilderness opportunities just a few steps away from the lodge.



At the Visitor Information Station daily weather and sea conditions reports are available along with orientations on what to prepare while camping and boating in this national park because the protection and preservation of this wilderness is not just the responsibility of the park rangers but it is yours as well.

Another way to visit this wilderness is to take a trip up bay on the *Fairweather Express II* which docks at Bartlett Cove. Prepare yourself for a wildlife Glacier Bay extravaganza looking for puffins, whales, mountain goats and brown bears as you zip your way up to the icy faces of the Marjorie and Grand Pacific Glaciers.

At the end of your day you can stay at the free Bartlett Cove campground that's tucked into a hidden corner of Bartlett Cove temperate rainforest. Tall spruce and hemlock trees provide shelter from the rain and wind while a quick walk from the tent gives you access to the protected shoreline. During the low tide you can watch as Brittle Stars, Sea Urchins, and Chitons compete for space in an ever changing environment or discover interglacial stumps that tell the fascinating story of Glacier Bay's past.

If a primitive outdoor experience does not sound appealing, you might prefer to stay at the historic Glacier Bay National Park Lodge. Established in 1966, this rustic architecture is host to spacious cabin like rooms connected by wooden boardwalks in an intimate forest setting. The lodge offers fine dining, and a gift shop. The porch is a popular location to soak in the wilderness views. Upstairs is the National Park Service Visitor Center providing more information and learning opportunities about this resource including a hydrophone station where you can listen to the underwater sounds of Glacier Bay. This visitor center is staffed daily by a National Park Ranger and in the evening park movies are shown followed by a Ranger program highlighting many of the features of Glacier Bay National Park. Also upstairs is the Alaska Geographic Bookstore.

Near the lodge is a 1 mile Forest Loop Trail where visitors can explore the lush temperate rainforest that thrives here. You can join a park ranger for a guided walk along this trail each afternoon. For a longer day hike consider a walk along the Bartlett River Trail keep your eyes open for Black Bears, Coyotes, Moose, and River Otters. It is also an excellent viewing site for Glacier Bay's many shorebirds. For an all day hike the Bartlett River Trail connects to the longer Bartlett Lake Trail where you can be rewarded with rich solitude.

Kayak rentals are available for a leisurely day paddle in the cove or you can take them for an overnight adventure into the wilderness waters of the Beardslee Islands.

No matter how you choose to explore the park Bartlett Cove is a enjoyable stop on the way up bay and on a clear day offers excellent views of the Fairweather Range. Thank you for joining me on another edition of Glacier Bay's Ranger Minutes.